

HENRY HINCKLEY.

MAY 23, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GIBSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2393.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2393) granting an increase of pension to Henry Hinckley, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$6 to \$12 per month the pension of Henry Hinckley, of Grand Junction, Colo.

The Senate report states the facts and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2393) granting a pension to Henry Hinckley, Company G, Fifth Vermont Infantry, have examined the same and report:

The bill proposes to pension the petitioner at the rate of \$25 per month, the same to be in lieu of the pension he now receives.

The record of the case discloses the following facts: Petitioner is about 65 years of age and in straitened circumstances; he is pensioned at the rate of \$6 per month by certificate 642299, under the act of June 27, 1890; the records of the War Department show him to have enlisted August 26, 1861, in Company G, Fifth Vermont Infantry, and to have been discharged therefrom February 11, 1863, upon surgeon's certificate of disability; again enlisted November 23, 1863, in Company I, Seventh Vermont Infantry, from which honorably discharged July 18, 1865, the war having ended. He claimed pension under the general law for injury of right arm (for which disability he appears to have been discharged the first service) and for deafness; this claim is not established to the satisfaction of the Pension Bureau and stands rejected; likewise, a claim for further increase of pension under the act of June 27, 1890, stands disallowed on the ground of insufficient disability to entitle him to an increase thereunder, and therefore the only relief, at the present time, is by special bill.

Letters from prominent citizens of Grand Junction, Colo., whose standing is vouched for by the junior Senator from that State, indicate that the petitioner is in destitute circumstances and likely to become a county charge unless relieved in some manner. He is represented as a man of excellent habits and fully worthy of consideration. For the disabilities which he alleges to be of service origin, the United States examining surgeons have found a degree of disability which, if the said disabilities were of conceded service origin, would approximate to \$12 per month. The records of the Surgeon-General, U. S. A., show treatment for several disabilities during claimant's service, and, as above stated, the first discharge was for disability of right arm. Although temporarily recovering from said disability and thereafter reenlisting, it may not be unreasonable to assume that the existing affection of right arm had its origin in the service of the United States. The absence of testimony as to the precise manner of its incurrence affords the Pension Bureau ground for denying pension upon the ground (presumably) of a doubt as to line of duty; but in view of the history of the case, of the good standing of the petitioner, of the fact of his long and honorable service, and of the apparent necessity of relief at the present time, your committee recommend that the bill pass as hereby amended.

Amend by striking out, in line 7, the word "twenty-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twelve."